

Federal Housing Finance Board

§ 956.5

§ 956.2 Authorized investments.

In addition to assets enumerated in parts 950 and 955 of this chapter and subject to the applicable limitations set forth in this part, in the Financial Management Policy and in part 980 of this chapter, each Bank may invest in:

- (a) Obligations of the United States;
- (b) Deposits in banks or trust companies;
- (c) Obligations, participations or other instruments of, or issued by, the Federal National Mortgage Association or the Government National Mortgage Association;
- (d) Mortgages, obligations, or other securities that are, or ever have been, sold by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1454 or 1455;
- (e) Stock, obligations, or other securities of any small business investment company formed pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 681(d), to the extent such investment is made for purposes of aiding members of the Bank; and
- (f) Instruments that the Bank has determined are permissible investments for fiduciary or trust funds under the laws of the state in which the Bank is located.

§ 956.3 Prohibited investments and prudential rules.

(a) *Prohibited investments.* A Bank may not invest in:

- (1) Instruments that provide an ownership interest in an entity, except for investments described in §§ 940.3(e) and (f) of this chapter;
- (2) Instruments issued by non-United States entities, except United States branches and agency offices of foreign commercial banks;
- (3) Debt instruments that are not rated as investment grade, except:
 - (i) Investments described in § 940.3(e) of this chapter;
 - (ii) Debt instruments that were downgraded to a below investment grade rating after acquisition by the Bank; or
- (4) Whole mortgages or other whole loans, or interests in mortgages or loans, except:
 - (i) Acquired member assets;
 - (ii) Investments described in § 940.3(e) of this chapter;

(iii) Marketable direct obligations of state, local, or tribal government units or agencies, having at least the second highest credit rating from a NRSRO, where the purchase of such obligations by the Bank provides to the issuer the customized terms, necessary liquidity, or favorable pricing required to generate needed funding for housing or community lending;

(iv) Mortgage-backed securities, or asset-backed securities collateralized by manufactured housing loans or home equity loans, that meet the definition of the term “securities” under 15 U.S.C. 77b(a)(1); and

(v) Loans held or acquired pursuant to section 12(b) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1432(b)).

(b) *Foreign currency or commodity positions prohibited.* A Bank may not take a position in any commodity or foreign currency. A Bank may participate in consolidated obligations denominated in a currency other than U.S. Dollars or linked to equity or commodity prices, provided that the Bank meets the requirements of § 966.8(d) of this chapter, and all other applicable requirements related to issuing consolidated obligations.

[65 FR 43985, July 17, 2000, as amended at 66 FR 8320, Jan. 30, 2001]

§ 956.4 Risk-based capital requirement for investments.

Each Bank shall hold retained earnings plus general allowance for losses as support for the credit risk of all investments that are not rated by a NRSRO, or are rated or have a putative rating below the second highest credit rating, in an amount equal to or greater than the outstanding balance of the investments multiplied by:

- (a) A factor associated with the credit rating of the investments as determined by the Finance Board on a case-by-case basis for rated assets to be sufficient to raise the credit quality of the asset to the second highest credit rating category; and
- (b) 0.08 for assets having neither a putative nor actual rating.

§ 956.5 Authorization for derivative contracts and other transactions.

A Bank may enter into the following types of transactions: